

HON. JAMES L. ROBERT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

ALEXANDRA CARR, an individual, on her  
own behalf, on behalf of THE KAISER  
ALUMINUM FABRICATED PRODUCTS LLC  
MEDICAL CHOICE PLUS HOURLY ACTIVE  
UNION PLAN, and on behalf of similarly  
situated individuals,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC.,  
a Delaware corporation.

Defendant.

NO. 2:15-cv-1105 JLR

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER:

- (1) ~~FINALLY~~ APPROVING  
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT;
- (2) APPROVING DISBURSEMENTS  
PURSUANT TO SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT;
- (3) APPROVING PAYMENT OF  
COST OF CLAIMS  
ADMINISTRATION AND CLASS  
NOTICE, LITIGATION COSTS,  
CASE CONTRIBUTION AWARD  
AND ATTORNEYS' FEES; AND
- (4) ORDERING FINAL REPORT.

NOTED FOR HEARING:

June 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

I. BACKGROUND

On February 10, 2017, the Court preliminarily approved a proposed Settlement Agreement between plaintiff on behalf of the class and defendant United Healthcare Services, Inc. Dkt. No. 77. In conjunction with that Order, the Court directed that the Claims Processor mail the Class Notice (Dkt. No. 73-2) to the Class Notice Recipients and provide the Court with confirmation of compliance by March 22, 2017. See Dkt. No. 78

ORDER FINALLY APPROVING SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT, ATTORNEYS' FEES, LITIGATION  
COSTS AND INCENTIVE AWARD - 1  
[Case No. 2:15-cv-01105-JLR]

SIRIANNI YOUTZ  
SPOONEMORE HAMBURGER  
701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 2560  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104  
TEL. (206) 223-0303 FAX (206) 223-0246

1 (confirming mailing of Class Notice). Class counsel also established a settlement webpage  
2 consistent with the Preliminary Approval Order, containing the Class Notice, the Claim  
3 Form Materials and key filings in the litigation, including the Motion for Attorneys' Fees,  
4 Litigation Costs and Incentive Awards. See <http://www.symslaw.com/uhcsettlement/>  
5 (last visited 4/24/17).

6 The Preliminary Approval Order also provided that class members who wished  
7 to comment on or object to the proposed Agreement to do so by April 21, 2017. Class  
8 members were informed of their rights and of this deadline in the notices that were  
9 mailed to them and on class counsel's website.

10 The Order further scheduled a final settlement hearing, which was held on June 2,  
11 2017 at 9:00 a.m., to consider any objections and comments submitted by class members  
12 and to determine whether the proposed Agreement is fair, reasonable, adequate and  
13 should be approved by the Court.

## 14 II. FINDINGS

15 1. The parties have reached a Settlement Agreement that confirms plan  
16 amendment to prospectively cover medically necessary mental health services without  
17 special treatment limitations imposed only on mental health services. The Agreement  
18 also established a process for re-processing of mental health claims denied or limited  
19 due to the application of the Challenged Mental Health Treatment limitations, the exact  
20 terms of which are set out in the Agreement.

21 2. The Agreement also establishes a settlement fund to pay all reprocessed  
22 claims. Under the terms of the Agreement, this fund will be used to pay for re-processed  
23 claims only.



1 and experience of counsel; future expense and likely duration of litigation;  
2 recommendation of neutral parties, if any; number of objectors and nature of objections;  
3 and the presence of good faith and absence of collusion. *Officers for Justice*, 688 F.2d at  
4 625.

5 10. Based upon these factors, the Court finds that the Agreement is fair,  
6 reasonable, and in the best interests of the class. The requirement of CR 23 and due  
7 process have been satisfied.

8 11. Specifically, the Court concludes that the Agreement was the result of  
9 arm's-length bargaining. It was reached after sufficient discovery and motions practice.

10 Although the plaintiff believed that she had a strong likelihood of success, defendant  
11 also believed that it would ultimately succeed, such that there was risk in proceeding  
12 with the litigation. A settlement that confirms coverage of medically necessary mental  
13 health services without special limitations and exclusions, and provides for full  
14 reimbursement (except for a \$15 co-payment) for class members' past mental health  
15 therapy services, achieves the goals of the litigation. There is no evidence of collusion  
16 between the parties, and the agreement was reached in good faith.

17 12. The class was provided with adequate notice, and due process has been  
18 satisfied in connection with the distribution of the notice. As noted above, there were  
19 no objections or comments to the proposed Agreement.

#### 20 IV. FUNDING OF QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND

21 13. Upon the occurrence of the conditions set forth in section 2 of the  
22 Settlement Agreement, and after adequate funding of the Qualified Settlement Fund by  
23 defendant, the Court authorizes the Claims Processor to disburse all Reprocessed Claim  
24 Amounts to settlement class members from the Qualified Settlement Fund.

**V. CLASS NOTICE, CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION, LITIGATION COSTS,  
INCENTIVE AWARDS AND ATTORNEYS' FEES**

14. The Settlement Agreement provides, upon the occurrence of the conditions set forth in Section 2 of the Agreement, that class counsel shall make the following payments out of \$110,000 to be paid by defendant UHC to class counsel: (1) payment for Class Notice and Claims Administration; (2) payment of all litigation costs; (3) payment of up to \$5,000 for a case contribution award to plaintiff Carr, if approved by the Court, and (4) the remainder to be paid to class counsel, Sirianni Youtz Spoonemore Hamburger and Breskin, Johnson & Townsend, as payment for lodestar attorneys' fees. That request is reasonable and is granted. The Court awards \$110,000 to be paid by UHC to class counsel within 30 days of the Effective Date of the Settlement Agreement. Class counsel shall then distribute the payments identified above.

15. No objections were received to the request for a payment of up to \$110,000 in attorneys fees.

**VI. CASE CONTRIBUTION AWARDS**

16. Upon the occurrence of the conditions set forth in Section 2 of the Settlement Agreement, plaintiff Carr is awarded a case contribution award in the sum of \$5,000 as described in the Settlement Agreement. The Court authorizes the disbursement of these funds from the \$110,000 payment to class counsel.

17. No objections were received to the request for case contribution awards.

**VII. CLASS COUNSEL'S FINAL REPORT**

18. Class counsel shall submit a final report to the Court regarding claims processing and disbursement of funds by no later than 30 days after the Claims Processor processes all valid claims. The Report shall detail the payment of court-awarded attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, case contribution award, costs of notice/administration, payment of class member claims, and taxes, if any.

VIII. ORDER

It is hereby ORDERED that:

1. The Settlement Agreement is approved as fair, reasonable and adequate under CR 23, and its terms shall bind class members, since no class member opted-out.

2. Class counsel is awarded \$110,000 out of which it must pay for the costs of Class Notice and claims processing, litigation costs, the Court-approved case contribution award and, with the remainder, attorneys fees.

3. The Claims Processor is also authorized to distribute payments to class members and the named plaintiff in accordance with the Agreement and this Order.

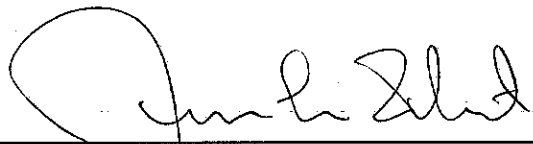
These amounts are authorized to be paid from the Settlement Trust Fund.

4. Case contribution award of \$5,000 to plaintiff Alexandra Carr, as set forth in the Agreement, is approved. Class counsel is authorized to distribute that sum from the \$110,000 payment to Class counsel, as described above and in the Settlement Agreement.

5. Class counsel is ordered to submit a Final Report in accordance with the Agreement and this Order, detailing all payments made by class counsel from the \$110,000 payment and from the Qualified Settlement Fund.

6. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter until the Qualified Settlement Fund is closed.

It is so ORDERED this 2<sup>ND</sup> day of June, 2017.



JAMES L. ROBERT  
United States District Judge

1 Presented by:

2 SIRIANNI YOUTZ  
3 SPOONEMORE HAMBURGER

4 /s/ Eleanor Hamburger

Eleanor Hamburger (WSBA #26478)

5 Richard E. Spoonemore (WSBA #21833)

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2560

6 Seattle, WA 98104

Phone: (206) 223-0303

7 Fax: (206) 223-0246

rspoonemore@sylaw.com

8 ehamburger@sylaw.com

9 BRESKIN JOHNSON & TOWNSEND PLLC

10 /s/ Daniel F. Johnson

11 /s/ Cynthia J. Heidelberg

Daniel F. Johnson (WSBA #27848)

12 Cynthia J. Heidelberg (WSBA #44121)

1000 Second Avenue, Suite 3670

13 Seattle, WA 98104

14 Phone: (206) 652-8660

Fax: (206) 652-8290

15 djohnson@bjtlegal.com

cheidelberg@bjtlegal.com

16 Class Counsel

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ORDER FINALLY APPROVING SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT, ATTORNEYS' FEES, LITIGATION  
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701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 2560  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104  
TEL. (206) 223-0303 FAX (206) 223-0246

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on April 28, 2017, I caused the foregoing to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

- **Barbara J Duffy**  
duffyjb@lanepowell.com, Docketing-SEA@LanePowell.com,  
seelhoffc@lanepowell.com, wileyj@lanepowell.com
- **Eleanor Hamburger**  
ehamburger@syllaw.com, matt@syllaw.com, theresa@syllaw.com
- **Daniel Foster Johnson**  
djohnson@bjtlegal.com, shill@bjtlegal.com, admin@bjtlegal.com
- **Ruth L Johnson**  
johnsonr@lanepowell.com, Docketing-SEA@LanePowell.com,  
seelhoffc@lanepowell.com, fairchildk@lanepowell.com
- **Ryan P McBride**  
mcbrider@lanepowell.com, savariak@lanepowell.com, docketing-  
sea@lanepowell.com
- **Richard E Spoonemore**  
rspoonemore@syllaw.com, matt@syllaw.com, rspoonemore@hotmail.com,  
theresa@syllaw.com

DATED: April 28, 2017, at Seattle, Washington.

s/ Eleanor Hamburger

Eleanor Hamburger (WSBA #26478)